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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# **Selected Speeches and News Releases**

**July 19 - July 26, 1990**

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## **ALGERIA ELIGIBLE FOR MORE BUTTERFAT PRODUCTS SUNDER THE DEIP**

WASHINGTON, July 19—F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 2,500 metric tons of U.S. butter, butteroil or anhydrous milkfat to Algeria under the Dairy Export Incentive Program.

Sales of these products will be made to buyers in Algeria through normal commercial channels at competitive prices. The export sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses in the form of commodities from the inventory of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Algerian market.

Details of the program, including an amendment to the current invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future. For more information call Mark Rowse, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape-recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under DEIP, call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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## **RICE RESEARCH IS FAMILY AFFAIR**

WASHINGTON—A crusade against crop disease, begun more than 60 years ago by an Arkansas farmer and his son, has grown into an international scientific treasure tended by the farmer's grandson, a U.S. Department of Agriculture researcher.

"Sometimes I still kind of pinch myself to see if I'm just dreaming that here I am, carrying on what my dad and granddad helped start," says Robert H. Dilday in the latest issue of Agricultural Research, the magazine of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.



Dilday, of Stuttgart, Arkansas, conducts genetics research on plants shipped from the country's rice collection, kept by ARS at the National Small Grains Collection in Aberdeen, Idaho.

The collection took shape in the mid-1920s, when an epidemic of stem rot on Arkansas' Grand Prairie spurred Stuttgart farmer Henry Daniel Dilday and his son, Henry Homer, to pay some calls on neighboring rice growers.

The Dildays spent their evenings raising money to purchase land for a rice research station. By 1927, the land had been purchased and donated to the University of Arkansas, which built its Rice Branch Experiment Station there.

But the elder Dilday's involvement didn't stop there. When the station held its first public field day a few years later, he was on the three-man welcoming committee. And when rice samples were being gathered for a germplasm collection, he contributed two of the first three.

Although the Depression drove the Dildays out of the area, the rice germplasm collection thrived, first at Stuttgart and later at Aberdeen. In its decades of development, it has had only three overseers at Stuttgart: ARS agronomist Roy Adair from the 1930s to the 1950s; Ted N. Johnston from the 1950s to 1982, and since 1982, Robert Henry Dilday—the only son of Henry Daniel Dilday's only son, Henry Homer.

Robert Dilday's role in maintaining the germplasm collection his grandfather helped found was something of a fluke. He had planned a career in farming, but instead wound up in agricultural research, working for ARS in Brownsville, Texas, before the rice germplasm position became available in 1982.

Dilday's modern duties would impress even his forward-looking grandfather. He evaluates 4,000 to 5,000 rice accessions at a time for information on characteristics such as days to maturity, plant height, disease and herbicide resistance, and the ability to repel weeds naturally.

"Last year, we looked at about 22,000 entries in evaluation tests," he said. "We need to do these evaluations because we have a large collection, but we really do not know what's there in terms of useful characteristics."

Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-4089  
Issued: July 20, 1990

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATIONS**

WASHINGTON, July 20—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 102,832 metric tons of corn for delivery to unknown destinations during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn begins Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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## **YEUTTER APPOINTS MEMBERS TO NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR WIC AND CSFP**

WASHINGTON, July 20—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced the appointment of 10 new members to serve on the National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition.

The 24-member council studies the operation of the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). It reports biennially to the president and the Congress on how the programs can be improved.

WIC and CSFP are administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service and provide essential food and nutrition counseling to the most vulnerable members of society.

New members appointed to three-year terms are: James R. Nelson, state CSFP director (Illinois); Charles A. Anderson, state health officer (South Dakota); Mary Frances Lane, WIC project director (South Carolina); Constance J. Betterley, state public health nutrition director (Iowa); Richard M. Narkewicz, pediatrician (Vermont); Galen Davis, drug abuse education and prevention expert (Kansas); Albert W. Pruitt, M.D., alcohol abuse education and prevention expert (Georgia); and Patricia Grant Higgins, Ph.D., R.N., breastfeeding promotion expert (New Mexico). Appointed to two-year terms are Cathy Killian, WIC



parent participant (North Carolina) and Betty Landry, CSFP parent participant (Louisiana).

Council membership covers all aspects of program operations. Members are: the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services officials, WIC and CSFP state and local program operators, a state fiscal officer, medical and health representatives, a non-profit public interest organization representative, food retailers representative, special populations representatives, and WIC and CSFP parent participants.

Darlene Barnes (703) 756-3286

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## **USDA COMPLETES TRAP LINES IN SOUTH TEXAS TO TRACK AFRICANIZED HONEYBEES**

WASHINGTON, July 23—U.S. Department of Agriculture officials today announced completion of four interconnected trap lines in south Texas to capture and track swarms of Africanized honeybees expected to move from Mexico into the United States in the next year.

“The Africanized honeybee has not entered the United States yet, but we expect the first swarms to reach southeast Texas sometime between late summer and next spring,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “We have established these trap lines to capture the swarms and track their movement once they arrive.”

According to Glosser, the traps are plastic-covered cardboard boxes that have a pheromone, or chemical attractant, to lure honeybee swarms inside. APHIS field personnel check the traps every two weeks. If bees are found, they are killed immediately with soapy water and samples are submitted to USDA laboratories for identification.

“We have been working to develop expertise in honeybee identification because it is impossible to differentiate the AHB from our local honeybees without a laboratory examination,” Glosser said. “USDA’s Agricultural Research Service has been very supportive in helping train our field personnel in identification methods and in providing the necessary equipment.”

The four trap lines are located north of Brownsville, Texas, near the Gulf Coast. The northernmost trap line, which has over 40 traps, runs about 50 miles south from Sarita to Raymondville. The intersecting line



has about 60 traps and extends 80 miles east from La Gloria to Port Mansfield on the coast. Another line with about 30 traps extends about 30 miles south of La Gloria to Rio Grande City, while the fourth line parallels the coast for about 60 miles from San Perlita to Port Isabel and has around 60 traps.

In addition to the trap lines in Texas, APHIS maintains a network of trap lines on Mexico's east and west coasts as part of the U.S.-Mexico Cooperative Program for the Control of Africanized Honeybees.

The APHIS trap lines in Texas and Mexico complement similar efforts undertaken by ARS and Texas.

Natalie Bosecker (301) 436-4898

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES FIRST POST-DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN PLANT AND ANIMAL SCIENCE**

WASHINGTON, July 23—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a new post-doctoral program for studies in plant and animal science, offering an opportunity for six scientists to pursue applied research projects for two to four years.

“The purpose is two-fold,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “First, we will secure needed research in support of our regulatory programs. Second, we will attract first-rate scientific talent to the field of animal and plant health. Contact with participants will continue to benefit us long after the post-doctoral projects have been completed.”

The nature and location of the projects are:

—Improving techniques for detecting micro-organisms that infect materials imported to propagate fruit trees. Invisible even under a standard microscope, microbes—especially mycoplasma-like organisms—can seriously damage domestic orchards. The project will develop ways to detect them through nucleic-acid probes at USDA laboratories in Beltsville, Md.

—Scaring predatory birds away from fields. On many farms, birds have become major pests, damaging enterprises as diverse as fish farms, fruit orchards and grain fields. Existing devices for scaring birds away don't do the job effectively. The project, located at the Monell Chemical Senses Center at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, will

study the psychology, neurobiology, chemical ecology and analytical chemistry involved in motivating birds to fly away and not come back.

—Clear identification of insects. About 1 million species of insects have been classified by man, and some 10 to 50 million more await identification. Identification of harmful exotic insects by strain will help combat them if they ever become established in this country. The project will explore the use of genetic markers at APHIS laboratories at Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, Mass.

—Quality control for genetically engineered vaccines. As in human medicine, vaccines for animals can be made more effective and safer to use through genetic engineering. However, new methods are needed to evaluate the purity and stability of such vaccines. The project will utilize marker genes to develop new standard test methods at the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories at Ames, Iowa.

—Quality control for all types of animal vaccines. Modern laboratory techniques can go further than ever in maintaining the purity of vaccines and the source biological material used to produce them. The project will look for ways to use DNA amplification techniques to test both viral and bacterial vaccines at the Ames laboratories.

—Damage assessment for livestock diseases. Regulatory officials need the best decision-making tools possible to decide whether federal action can significantly improve animal health. The project, located at the APHIS National Center for Animal Health Information Systems, Fort Collins, Colo., will develop economic measures to quantify a disease's economic impact on both producers and consumers.

Applications for the post-doctoral positions, at compensation ranging from \$24,705 to \$42,601 per year, are being accepted until Aug. 1. Names of successful candidates will be announced about Oct. 1. Work on the projects will begin immediately, with a termination date specified for each project. Additional projects will be announced about this time next year.

Application forms are available from: USDA, APHIS, Recruitment and Development, 236 Federal Bldg., Hyattsville, Md. 20782 or call 1-800-762-2738.

Amichai Heppner (202) 436-5222

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## **MEAT INSPECTION SERVICES TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM MINNESOTA FIRM**

WASHINGTON, July 23—A U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today USDA will withdraw federal inspection services from Campion Wholesale Meats, Inc., of St. Paul, Minn., for one year if the firm violates provisions of a consent order issued on June 27.

On Sept. 6, 1989, the firm was convicted of two misdemeanor charges for removing labels on approximately 5,500 pounds of "beef patty mix" and relabeling the product "ground beef." The product was subsequently transported to a purchaser, according to Dr. Lester M. Crawford, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. The decision to withdraw inspection follows those convictions, he said.

The order prohibits the firm from future violations of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and Poultry Products Inspection Act as well as state and local statutes. In addition, the firm cannot hire individuals convicted of a felony or more than one misdemeanor for handling or distributing unwholesome or mislabeled foods.

The firm must initiate a control program to ensure product safety, which includes procedures for the immediate recall of adulterated or misbranded products that reach consumer channels.

Inspection services will be withdrawn for one year if any of the provisions are violated within the next two years.

Withdrawal of inspection services effectively closes a plant because a meat or poultry plant cannot operate and sell its products in interstate commerce without federal inspection.

FSIS and its 9,000 employees are dedicated to ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

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## **OWNER OF CALIFORNIA FIRM FINED \$100,000 FOR MEAT VIOLATIONS**

WASHINGTON, July 23—Michael Silver, doing business in Los Angeles, Calif., as M&M Foods, California Food Distributing and General Provisions, has been fined \$100,000 and placed on three years probation for causing various meat food products to become adulterated

by rodent feces, hair and gnaw marks, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

On July 3, Silver was convicted in the U.S. District Court for Central California of two misdemeanor counts for storing meat in a freezer facility with rodent infestation, according to Dr. Lester M. Crawford, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. Silver pled guilty to both counts.

The violations were discovered in May 1988 and January 1989 during routine reviews by FSIS compliance officers. Their findings, which led to the convictions, were turned over to the U.S. Attorney in California.

The \$100,000 fine is payable in three equal yearly installments beginning on Sept. 15, 1990. Silver was also ordered to pay \$96.66 per month maintenance fee during the probationary period and a \$25 special assessment. In addition, the court recommended that Silver visit the firm bi-monthly and document his observations.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service ensures the safety, wholesomeness and accurate labeling of meat and poultry products as they move through distribution channels.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

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## **KINDERGER TO TAKE AG CHAIR AT NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, July 23—Dr. Paul Kindinger, director of USDA's Office of Public Affairs, has resigned to take an endowed chair for agriculture at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today. The college is part of the National Defense University, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.

“This is the first chair for agriculture at this institution. It will be an important addition to their curriculum,” Yeutter said. “Paul will be excellent at instructing the senior military and civilian decision makers who attend this university on the important role that agriculture plays in the global community and for our national security. We are proud that he will hold this prestigious position.”

Kindinger will join the ICAF on July 24 and begin instructing during the fall semester.



“Paul has served us well since joining USDA a year ago,” Yeutter said. “He has been a key force in directing and mobilizing the newly created Office of Public Affairs. We will miss him in that role.” Kindinger has served in his current post as director of the Office of Public Affairs since August of 1989. Prior to his joining USDA, he had been the director of agriculture for the state of Michigan since 1983.

Kindinger, 43, was raised on a dairy hog and cash crop farm in Reading, Mich. His bachelor’s and master’s degrees, both in agricultural economics, are from Michigan State University, East Lansing. He also holds a doctorate in agricultural economics from Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

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## **USDA POSTS NEW ROAD SIGN FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

WASHINGTON—Pesticide Road is history; Biocontrol Road has arrived.

The change, marked by a new road sign installed at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s 7,200-acre Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center near Washington, reflects the change in research projects in labs along the road.

“We are expanding studies to find innovative approaches to control crop pests, such as using their own natural enemies,” said Essex E. Finney Jr., director of the center, the largest facility of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

The sign change came as Finney announced a new alignment of the center’s Plant Sciences Institute. This summer, the institute’s former 21 labs are being consolidated into 16. The center’s total of 373 scientists and 1,087 other personnel remains the same, he said.

“We will focus more of our talent and resources on some of the highest priorities,” Finney said, “especially biological control of plant pests, plant genetic resources, long-term sustainability of farm production and natural resources, insect neurobiology, and global climate change.

“Biocontrol Road symbolizes our shift, made gradually over the last 20 years, towards finding natural alternatives to chemical pesticides, such as good bugs that eat weeds or bad bugs. But changing the name makes

sense because biocontrol research in labs located along that road since the 1970's is again being strengthened." He pointed out that many of the center's dozens of roads are named for research subjects, such as Entomology Rd., Poultry Rd. and South Dairy Rd.

Pesticide Rd. had become a misnomer, Finney said. The center's pesticide research began there in the 1940's in buildings 402, 406, 407 and 408, clustered on the road's eastern side about a half-mile south of Maryland state Route 212. But by the mid-1980's, Schroder and other scientists were using most of the site for studies of natural enemies of insect pests.

No longer will visitors be directed to Pesticide Rd. to consult Insect Biocontrol Laboratory entomologist Robert F. Schroder about parasitic wasps that kill Colorado potato beetles. These pests devour potato, tomato and eggplant and are becoming resistant to chemical insecticides.

The affected labs in the new Plant Sciences alignment are:

- \* Insect Biocontrol Laboratory (new), James L. Vaughn, research leader. The new lab "brings together a critical mass of scientists to address this important agency priority," said Finney. It consists of 16 scientists drawn from the previous Insect Pathology, Beneficial Insects, Insect Chemical Ecology and Insect Reproduction labs.
- \* Insect Neurobiology and Hormone Laboratory (new), James A. Svoboda, research leader. This lab brings together scientists from the Insect Reproduction and Insect Hormone labs.

- \* National Germplasm Resources Laboratory (new), Allan L. Stoner, research leader. This merges the National Plant Germplasm Quarantine and Germplasm Services labs to improve coordination of plant exploration, introduction and quarantine and computer databases on plant collections.

- \* Bee Research Laboratory (new), Hachiro Shimanuki, research leader. This consists of bee researchers from Beneficial Insects.

- \* Soybean and Alfalfa Research Laboratory (new), Donald L. Keister, research leader. Established to boost yield and quality of the two most vital legume crops in the U.S., it consolidates the Germplasm Quality and Enhancement lab and the Nitrogen Fixation and Soybean Genetics lab.

- \* Climate Stress Laboratory (enlarged, but remains part of the center's Natural Resources Institute), Steven J. Britz, research leader. By taking in scientists from the Plant Science Institute's Plant Photobiology Laboratory, the lab will strengthen research on global climate change and its possible consequences for society and farm productivity.



\* Weed Science Laboratory (enlarged), A. Lawrence Christy, research leader. The lab absorbs the previous Tropical Plants Research Laboratory.

\* Insect Chemical Ecology Laboratory (retained), Barbara Leonhardt, research leader. Its applied gypsy moth research program shifts to Insect Biocontrol.

Unaffected are the remaining nine of the Plant Science Institute's 16 labs: Biocontrol of Plant Diseases, Florist and Nursery Crops, Fruit, Vegetable, Microbiology and Plant Pathology, Nematology, Plant Molecular Biology, Systematic Botany and Mycology, and Systematic Entomology.

In addition to the Plant Sciences Institute and eight laboratories in the Natural Resources Institute, the center has four labs in a Product Quality and Development Institute and twelve in a Livestock and Poultry Sciences Institute. The center also is home to the ARS Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center and administers the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, Finney said.

Current pesticide-related studies at the center, Finney said, focus on the breakdown of pesticides in the environment and data related to pesticide registration.

“There's probably always going to be a need for some pesticides to protect crops,” he said, “but wherever possible we want to minimize their use to also protect the environment.”

Jim De Quattro (301) 344-4296

Issued: July 23, 1990

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES**

WASHINGTON, July 24—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.36 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.48 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.41 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.18 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.25 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$4.82 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$4.79 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made July 31 at 3 p.m. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR JAPAN**

WASHINGTON, July 24—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 142,240 metric tons of corn for delivery to Japan, with 36,576 tons for delivery during the 1989-90 marketing year and 105,664 tons for delivery during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn begins Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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## **FORAGE GRASS GETS HELP TO SAVE ITS SEED**

WASHINGTON—A popular forage grass that likes drought but doesn't live up to other promises may face some tough competition from a South African cousin in coming years, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said.

The forage, kleingrass, has much to recommend it, including its ability to thrive in inhospitable settings with little water. This has won it a warm welcome from ranchers, particularly in Texas cattle country.



But it's not as well-loved by seed producers because of its tendency to "shatter," dumping its seed onto the ground almost as fast as they ripen.

"One of our geneticists, Bruce A. Young, has estimated only 10 percent of the seed produced by kleingrass is actually harvested," said Paul W. Voigt of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Voigt is research leader for forage improvement research at the Grassland, Soil and Water Research Laboratory operated by ARS at Temple, Texas.

The South African kleingrass retains about twice as much of its seed at 49 days after flowering than does Selection 75, the standard kleingrass cultivar being planted, Voigt says in the current issue of "Agricultural Research" magazine. He says the new line, discovered in South Africa in 1976, is being evaluated by laboratory scientists to see whether it has other desirable characteristics, such as adequate productivity.

The kleingrass work is only one part of the forage research under way at the Temple lab. Scientists also are seeking ways to improve the quality and digestibility of weeping lovegrass, a forage that remains green well into winter and resumes growth early in the spring, and are studying the relationship between forage seed size and early development of major roots vital to seedling survival.

Sandy Miller Hays (202) 344-4089

Issued: July 25, 1990

#

## **A SINGLE GERMANY: WHAT IT MIGHT MEAN FOR U.S. FOOD EXPORTERS**

WASHINGTON, July 25—The unification of West and East Germany has big implications for exporters of U.S. food and agricultural products, according to an article in the August issue of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's AgExporter Magazine, published by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The magazine interviewed FAS agricultural economist Steven Yoder, who recently traveled to East and West Germany. Yoder believes one of the big concerns for U.S. food exporters right now should be how to get and hold onto a share of this emerging market. "We've got to establish a strong presence for U.S. farm and food products in the East German marketplace before our competitors get it all sewn up," advises Yoder.

“West German, and other West European entrepreneurs, are moving into the market in a big way with consumer food products,” he says. “They have an edge on us in that they are on the spot. The Germans also can speak the language—and some have relatives in the East that they can work with.

“But that doesn’t mean that a U.S. exporter with a creative approach and a flexible marketing plan can’t do business in the East. The market is not without risk. There are no guarantees in such an unsettled situation. However, there are a lot of opportunities up for grabs, too.”

Yoder says “we can’t sit back and wait for everything relating to new-to-market food products to jell.” He reports that many of the East Germans he talked to recently said, “You Americans had better hurry up and get over here because the opportunities are here now and they won’t be around for another two to four years.”

Yoder points out that although East Germany is a small country—16 million people—it has many needs. “For example, the East German diet has always been largely a ‘meat and potatoes and bread’ affair. Milk and milk products—including cheese—also are generally available, although not up to the quality expected in the West. But supplies of fruits and vegetables are much less than desired. And there’s a wide open market for high-value processed products ranging from ketchup to ice cream.”

Yoder suggests U.S. agricultural exporters should make their first stop the office of the agricultural attache in Berlin. Another way for a U.S. firm to get a toehold in this market might be to work with either a West or East German firm. The East Germans are very interested in joint ventures—they are looking for new opportunities.

“It’s not a well-known fact, but there have been private businesses in East Germany over the years, though they were not very large,” said Yoder. “Private wholesalers and retailers may be allowed in some form in the not-too-distant future. Many restaurants have been privately owned and operated in the past. This private restaurant business is likely to expand rapidly.”

So the entrepreneurial spirit is alive in East Germany, and East Germans are looking for new products and new business ventures, according to Yoder. But it is up to U.S. businesses to showcase their products and expertise and develop the necessary business relationships in East Germany that could lead to profits in the coming years, he says.

Lynn K. Goldsbrough (202) 382-9442

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## **YEUTTER NAMES FOURTEEN TO NATIONAL HONEY NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

WASHINGTON, July 25—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter has appointed 14 members to the National Honey Nominations Committee for terms ending Dec. 31, 1992.

The appointees are from 14 states whose committee representatives completed terms Dec. 31, 1989. In early 1991, the secretary will appoint four National Honey Board members and alternates from names the nominations committee will forward.

Reappointed are Luther Darrel Jester, Osceola, Ark.; James Harold Gibbs, Valley Center, Calif.; Philip George May, Harvard, Ill.; Ann Worischek Harman, Laytonville, Md.; Jack Kenneth Thomsen, Glenwood, Minn.; Edward James Doan, Hamlin, N.Y.; Howard Merrill Taylor, Stratford, S.D.; Robert Melroy Graham, Spring City, Utah; and Stephen Andrew Conlon, New Martinsville, W.V.

Newly appointed are Barbara Mary Stockwell, Arivaca, Ariz.; Paul Edmund Limbach, Silt, Colo.; Thomas Joseph Muncey, Sparks, Nev.; Albert Bryan Belliston, Burley, Idaho; and Tommie Ray Chancey Jr., Dayton, Texas.

The National Honey Nominations Committee was established by the 1986 Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Order, as authorized by the 1984 Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act. The order provides that the top 20 honey producing states each have one committee representative, which the secretary appoints from names advanced by that state's beekeeping association. The committee nominates candidates from whom the secretary then selects members and their alternates to the National Honey Board.

The board administers a national promotion program for honey under terms of the order. Honey producers and importers finance the honey board's programs through assessments on honey entering the marketplace. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors the board.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **U.S. EXPORTERS FIND SINGAPORE A GATEWAY TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN FOOD SALES**

WASHINGTON, July 25—U.S. food exporters are discovering that Singapore is a “must-visit” point for anyone interested in making Asian sales, according Geoffrey Wiggin, U.S. agricultural trade officer in Singapore.

Wiggin was interviewed in the August issue of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s AgExporter Magazine, published by USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service.

“Although Singapore is a small country with a population of only 2.6 million, it is the gateway to food sales throughout Southeast Asia, occupying an important entrepot position,” says Wiggin. “Singapore’s agricultural imports—both high-value and bulk—totaled \$3.5 billion last year.”

The majority of the Singapore population is Chinese, who are willing to try new food products, according to Wiggin. “Western fast foods are very popular and U.S. products are accepted once people know how to prepare them,” he says.

Shopping patterns of Singaporeans also are beginning to change as consumers switch from outdoor markets to supermarkets, where most U.S. food products such as poultry, meats, produce and high-value products can be found. Also, as in the United States, more Singapore women are working. So there’s less time for meal preparation, providing additional opportunities for sales of fast foods and microwaveable foods.

In addition to good opportunities for U.S. poultry and poultry parts, Wiggin says “microwaveable, high-quality food items are another area where the United States has technological advantages.” He said that the United States currently does some good business in Singapore in certain fruits—apples, oranges and table grapes. “We’re trying to introduce pears, but the population here is used to a crunchy type of pear, rather than the soft, juicy ones that the United States produces. It’s going to take some consumer education,” says Wiggin.

As far as advice for U.S exporters, Wiggin says that because Singapore is a very competitive market, “you need to have the right products. Exporters of food products ought to make the U.S. Agricultural Trade Office in Singapore their first stop. Our office keeps in close contact with a wide range of importers and exporters.



“I often have companies coming to me saying: ‘We have all kinds of products. What does Singapore need?’ The honest answer is: Singapore doesn’t need anything. But if you have something to sell, you can market it here. You can market a product and create a need for it. Singapore gets so many things from so many places. You can’t approach it with: ‘What do they need, and we’ll get it.’ You have to know what you’ve got, and come here and be prepared to find your importer and begin to market it.”

If you’re a first-time exporter to this part of the world, says Wiggin, “we can provide you with contact lists and names of companies and individuals. You then, of course, have to do the legwork and contact these people, but many of the Singaporean importers are responsive. Once you’ve communicated with Singaporean importers by letter or fax you ought to think about paying a visit to Singapore.”

Wiggin says that a good relationship with a Singaporean importer can often lead to sales in other Southeast Asian markets. “You more than likely are getting your products into the other countries in the region without even knowing it, because many of the importers here reexport. Your product may eventually end up in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea or Thailand.”

Lynn K. Goldsbrough (202) 382-9442

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## **YEUTTER NAMES SHIPP TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS POST**

WASHINGTON, July 25—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today appointed Kelly M. Shipp to the position of Director of the Office of Public Affairs for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“Kelly is extraordinarily capable,” said Secretary Yeutter. “Her knowledge of the Department of Agriculture, media relations and international trade issues will be a tremendous asset to our public affairs division.”

“It is very important that we fully utilize Kelly’s superb talents during this crucial period for American agriculture. We are simultaneously working on a new farm bill and international disciplines for agricultural trade. Kelly has the qualifications and experience to work skillfully with the Congress and the agriculture community on these fundamental issues.”

Secretary Yeutter remarked that Shipp has excelled as USDA spokeswoman and will continue to hold that responsibility in her new position.

The Office of Public Affairs is responsible for USDA's public liaison, intergovernmental affairs, press and information operations. The director reports directly to the Secretary.

Shipp was named USDA Press Secretary in February 1989. She served as director of public affairs and press secretary to Yeutter when he served as U.S. Trade Representative (1987-88). In earlier years she was press secretary to U.S. Rep. Joseph McDade (R-Pa.) (1985-86); press assistant to the under secretary of agriculture (1984-85); and executive assistant to the director of USDA's Office of Rural Development Policy (1983-84).

Shipp was raised on an Illinois farm, where her parents continue to grow corn and soybeans, and raise hogs. A native of Alexis, Illinois, she received her bachelor's degree in communications and fine arts from Bradley University in Peoria. Shipp is married and resides in Silver Spring, Maryland.

John d'Amecourt (202) 447-4623

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## **ISRAEL ELIGIBLE FOR MORE BARLEY UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, July 25—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 200,000 metric tons of barley to Israel under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of barley will be made to buyers in Israel at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Israeli market.

Today's allocation, added to the 2,343 metric tons remaining under previous allocations, brings the total quantity of EEP barley available to Israel to 202,343 tons. This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program,

including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Paul Cummins, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Lynn K. Goldsbrough (202) 447-3448

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## **SAUDI ARABIA ELIGIBLE FOR MORE BARLEY UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, July 25—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 750,000 metric tons of barley to Saudi Arabia under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of barley will be made to buyers in Saudi Arabia at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Saudi market.

Previous allocations of 4,776,000 metric tons of barley to Saudi Arabia have been fully utilized. The new allocation of 750,000 metric tons will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Paul Cummins, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Lynn K. Goldsbrough (202) 447-3448

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES MEETING OF SCRAPIE NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WASHINGTON, July 26—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold the third meeting of the scrapie negotiated rulemaking advisory committee Aug. 9-11 in Washington, D.C., to develop a program to combat scrapie, a disease of sheep and goats.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held in the offices of The Conservation Foundation, 1250 24th Street N.W., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Aug. 9, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 10 and 11. A notice of the meeting was published in the July 25 Federal Register.

Scrapie is a fatal disease of sheep and goats that attacks the central nervous system. Currently there is no diagnostic test or treatment for scrapie.

The meeting will bring together technical specialists, representatives from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the sheep industry, and others interested in scrapie issues.

Work group sessions on Aug. 9 will focus on federal-state cooperation and on costs and economic impacts of scrapie activities. Plenary sessions on Aug. 10 and 11 will focus on recommendations of the previous day's work groups, administrative issues, and revisions of the proposed scrapie certification plan for scrapie control presented at the last meeting of the advisory committee.

The negotiated rulemaking process uses an independent facilitator, follows guidelines established by the committee, negotiates in good faith and aims at reaching a consensus on which all involved parties can agree.

Public participation in the meeting will be allowed during announced periods. Anyone wishing to file a written statement with the committee may do so either before, at, or after the meeting by sending the statement to Helene Wright, Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md., 20782. Comments must be received on or before August 24, and should refer to the scrapie negotiated rulemaking advisory committee.

Natalie Bosecker (301) 436-7799

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**THIS WEEK’S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS  
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, July 26—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation:

**Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table**

White .....	40.0
Extra-light Amber .....	37.0
Light Amber .....	36.0
Amber .....	35.0
Nontable .....	33.0

The weekly repayment level for 1990-crop honey is 38.0 cents per pound for all colors, table and nontable grades.

Levels are unchanged from those announced last week.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST  
John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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